

COUNTRY East Germany SECURITY INFORMATION REPORT NO. 25X1A
 TOPIC Information on Demonstrations in East Germany

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

25X1A DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED. DATE PREPARED 17 July 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS Summary of paragraphs 1, 3 to 8, and 11 to 13

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1. Between 1:15 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on 16 June units from Neuruppin marched 25X1A toward Berlin via the Alt-Ruppin railroad station. Troop columns observed included: 209 T-34 tanks and 19 JS tanks with numbers between 260 and 469; 50 25X1C trucks with soldiers; 40 SP guns; 300 trucks with soldiers, including 35 trucks towing AT guns, armored scout cars and armored personnel carriers; and 50 to 70 trucks loaded with ammunition coming from the Wulkow ammunition depot. On 24 June, elements of the above units were observed by source in Berlin. Except for ammunition shipments from Brest Litovsk to Wulkow, no military railroad traffic was conducted at the Alt-Ruppin railroad station. On 16 June, strikes started in Neuruppin were quelled in the beginning. Railroad traffic to Herzberg, Neustadt, Paulinenaue, Krehmen and Wittstock was normal. Neuruppin was calm. Food supply for civilians was sufficient. About 1,500 workers of the Bau-Union at Templin and at Neuruppin airfield were on strike.²
2. Source learned from a worker from Treptow that, on the morning of 24 June, about 40 tanks and 70 motor vehicles, including armored scout cars and armored personnel carriers, marched from Treptow Park to Mahlsdorf.²
3. During the night of 24 June, 12 T-34 tanks marched from Berlin-Ostbahnhof to the zone via Koenigswusterhausen. On 25 June, source observed about 80 tanks on Friedrichshain, and 2 tanks, 1 four-barreled AA gun and 3 armored scout cars on Neander Strasse.²
4. Beginning 17 June, martial law and curfew from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. were proclaimed in Strasburg near Pasewalk. Troop trains carrying armored scout cars, artillery pieces and JS-3 tanks, including Nos 134 and 135, passed through the Strasburg railroad station toward Pasewalk. Between 3 a.m. and 4:45 a.m., five KVP companies from the barracks installation in Pasewalk left for Berlin. KVP personnel left behind was on alert.³

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5. At 1 p.m. on 17 June, workers at Oranienburg airfield went on strike. The Forgsdorf bridge was occupied by six T-34/85 tanks. At about 8 p.m., 500 troops and 26 [redacted]

[redacted] with field kitchens, and 12 x 57-mm AT guns entered the Weisse Stadt settlement. At about 1 p.m. on 18 June, the above unit left toward Berlin and, at 10 a.m. on 20 June, returned to the Weisse Stadt settlement. On 20 June, about 40 percent of the workmen at Oranienburg airfield had resumed work.⁴

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6. Beginning at 11 a.m. on 19 June, the nationalized shipyard at Stralsund was occupied by Soviet troops. Six armored personnel carriers with two heavy machine guns each were standing on the approach. About 40 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, 4 x 57-mm AT guns, and [redacted] were observed at the installation.

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At 10:15 a.m. on 20 June, 12 half-track armored personnel carriers towing 100-mm AT guns and [redacted]

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[redacted] towing 57-mm AT guns were observed at the Putlitz Kaserne in Rostock. The unit was on alert. [redacted]

[redacted] with 35 soldiers each left the installation. The soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia.⁵

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7. During the riots in East Germany, no special observations were made in Peenemuende. On 17 June, sea police was on alert. Except for Nos 611 and 512, all boats were on duty at sea. Normal training activity was observed at the airfield. No liaison air traffic was seen.

8. Beginning 24 June, the railroad area in Frankfurt/Oder was no longer occupied by troops.

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9. Up to 24 June, no troops were entrained or unloaded at the Dallgow railroad station. Supply shipments by rail^{were} also not observed between 16 and 21 June.⁶

10. At 6 a.m. on 24 June, no change was observed with the troop concentrations in the Wuhlheide area and at Rummelsburg previously reported by source.²

11. On 15 June, the troop quarters of Unit Tulenev (fnu) in Schoenwalde were occupied almost to capacity. Three AA gun emplacements were occupied. An increased number of soldiers was seen at the quarters of Unit Chesnakov (fnu). The vacated billets of Unit Gonchar (fnu) were under the administration of Captain Malkov (fnu), Staaken.⁷ At 5 p.m., on 16 June, the highway to Hamburg was blocked at the road fork leading to Seeburg by soldiers with steel helmet and full field pack, probably to secure the troop movements on the road. The soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. On 22 June, source learned from an interpreter that, on the evening of 16 June, troops from the Löwen und Adler Kaserne had left for East Berlin via Dallgow, Krampnitz and Potsdam. [redacted]

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12. Between 8 a.m. and 0.10 p.m. on 17 June, vehicles observed in Herzberg coming from the direction of Neuruppin and driving toward Lützenberg included: an undetermined number of JS-2 tanks and JS-3 tanks, 150 T-34 tanks and 45 unidentified tanks, 6 JSU-122s, 145 trucks, each occupied by about 15 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets, 10 motorcycles, and 6 field kitchens. [redacted]

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On 22 June, martial law still was in Perleberg, with curfew from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. There were no special observations between 17 and 22 June. Beginning at 11:40 a.m. on 22 June, the SED building and all municipal installations were guarded by soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets. Local residents stated that the troops were stationed at the Artillery Kaserne.⁸

13. On 22 June, martial law still was in Perleberg, with curfew from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. No riots were observed between 17 and 22 June. As rioting was believed to occur on 22 June, patrol service was increased [redacted]

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[redacted] and trucks with soldiers continuously drove through the town. Each patrol consisted of three EM with red-bordered black epaulets.⁹

At 9:30 p.m. on 22 June, 35 percent of the windows of the troop quarters of Unit Yuppa (fnu) at the Loewen and Adler Kaserne in Doeberitz were lighted. Most windows of the quarters of Unit Leochko (fnu) were dark while 20 percent of the windows belonging to the quarters of Unit Zurkin (fnu) were lighted. Source believed that the troops were still absent and employed.⁶

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14. Source learned from a fugitive from Kasetkow, Angermuende district, that on 18 and 19 June, the rural population, including all farmers, went on strike. VPs from Angermuende quelled the strike. On 20 June, the regular trains from Angermuende to Bernau were about 1 hour late. Troop trains with Soviet soldiers were observed en route toward Berlin.

15. Source learned from East Berlin residents that, on 24 June, KVP from Saxony was still in Berlin and that the atmosphere between Saxonian KVP and the Berlin people was tense. The Berlin VP with blue uniforms was polite. Adequate food supplies were available, and sufficient goods were in RO stores.

- 25X1A 1. [redacted] Comment. The departure of large contingents of the 12th Gds Tank Div from Neuruppin to the northern area of East Berlin has been repeatedly confirmed. Paragraph 1 of the present report indicates that the unidentified motor transport battalion of the division from Wulkow also participated in the movement.

- 25X1A 2. [redacted] Comment. Although the departing units cannot definitely be identified, the number of Soviet troops employed in Berlin gradually was reduced, at least at the sector boundary, while rather large reserves are still assembled in the rear area.

- 25X1A 3. [redacted] Comment. The turret numbers indicate that possibly components of the 25th Tank Div were loaded on the troop trains.

- 25X1A 4. [redacted] Comment. The Weisse Stadt settlement was occupied by components of the 25th Tank Div which probably were transferred from Templin. These troops possibly were to be employed in Berlin but remained at Oranienburg as the situation in Berlin was normal again.

- 25X1A 5. [redacted] Comment. Vehicle [redacted] indicated that, on 19 June [redacted] elements of the 4th AT Arty Brig (US) were employed at the Stralsund shipyard. The troops on alert at the Putlitz Kaserne in Postock belonged to the 3d Gds AT Arty Brig stationed at this installation.

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25X1A 6. [] Comment. The observations confirm that large contingents of the 1st Mecz Div left the middle section and south section of East Berlin. The officers mentioned are known from previous reports by the same source.

25X1A 7. [] Comment. There was no change in the occupation of quarters of the 31st AAA Div while elements of the 90th RL Pgt (US) of the Second Gds Mecz Army probably returned from field exercises at Templin in early June 1953. [] The officers mentioned are known.

25X1A 8. [] Comment. Components of the 18th Mecz Div possibly returned from the Wittstock troop training grounds to Perleberg.

25X1B 25X1A 9. [] Comment. The [] armored scout car indicates that probably elements of the 3d Gds Mtrcl Bn of the 6th Gds Tank Div were employed in Wittenberg.

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